

REMARKS

After entry of the present amendment, allowed claims 11 and 14 will be pending with all other claims canceled. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Applicant reserves the right to pursue, in this or related applications, claims directed to any unclaimed subject matter whether originally claimed, later claimed, or not previously claimed. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Applicants thank Examiner Yu for her assistance on August 11, 2004 and understand that initialed copies of the SB/08 (substitute for 1449) forms filed in December 2002 and March 2004 respectively will be forwarded to counsel for Applicants.

Please note that the filing date for this application for the purposes of § 102(e) is May 3, 2003 as indicated on the Notification of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. § 371, not May 4, 2003 as indicated on the cover page of the Office action.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will move this case to allowance.

A petition and fee for a two-month extension of time accompany this paper. No other fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Kurt T. Buechle
Reg. No. 54,011
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
Tel.: (312) 474-6300
Fax: (312) 474-0448

Dated: August 12, 2004